(*a*) the cost of 'ascu' treating one cubic foot of any timber;

(*b*) the depth of the penetration of the solution into the timber:

(*c*) whether the Government had agreed to remunerate Mr. Kamesam for every cubic foot of timber ascued;

(*d*) if the answer to part (*c*) is in the affirmative, the amount so paid up-to-date;

(*e*) whether the amount paid to him for the use of his patent is exclusive of this amount;

(*f*) the quantity of ascu-treated-timber sold outside Travancore; and

(*g*) the quantity of ascu-treated-timber sold inside Travancore?

DR. S. K. PILLAI: (*a*) 4 as. per C. ft.

(*b*) Varies with the species of timber.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) and (*e*) These do not arise in view of answer to part (*c*).

(*f*) 1583 teak poles.

(*g*) (1) Teak poles 5696.
(2) Junglewood poles 675.
(3) Casuarina fence posts 562.
(4) Ceiling planks sq. ft. 21,614
(5) Other treated timber materials C. ft. 4428.

Ascu-treated timber.

236. ✱ **MR K. R. NARAYANAN:** Will the Government be pleased to state the quantity of ascu-treated timber in the possession of Government at present and the expenditure incurred on this treatment?

DR. S. K. PILLAI: 30,000 Cubic feet approximately.
Rs. 8,800 approximately.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: Will the honourable member be pleased to state how long this has been in the possession of Government?

DR. S. K. PILLAI: Sir, I claim notice.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: May I know whether any ascu-treatment was carried on after Dr. Kamesam had left this place?

DR. S. K. PILLAI: Yes.

Pallickal Thodu.

237. ✱ **MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any action was taken for deepening the Pallickal thodu in Vettikottu Punja in the Mavelikara taluk; and

(*b*) if not, the reason for the same?

MR. M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Deepening of the thodu was found to be not necessary, as the level of the thodu is lower than that of the adjoining paddy fields in most places.

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MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the Chief Engineer has inspected the place?

MR. M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR: No.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know the length of the channel?

MR. M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR: Sir, I claim notice.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know what he means by saying that "The level of the thodu is lower than that of the adjoining paddy fields in most places"?

MR. M. S. DORASWAMI AIYANGAR: Sir, it is the report which I have received from the Executive Engineer. Of course, in some places it may be a little higher. For the purpose of deepening the thodu it should be of uniform level.

Economic depression and unemployment.

238. *MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is wide-spread suffering and starvation in the State as a result of the acute economic depression and unemployment prevalent;

(*b*) whether they are taking any measures to minimise the sufferings of the people; and

(*c*) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, the measures taken so far?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: (*a*) In some places there is distress.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Arrangements are in progress for taking measures to expand the existing markets and also to find fresh markets for coir goods. It has been proposed to take up for execution some public works to provide work for the unemployed at Alleppey where the situation is acute. Doles of rice are also being distributed to the unemployed labourers.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, may I know whether the suffering is not greater in places south of Alleppey than in Alleppey itself?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: No, Sir, it is more acute in Alleppey.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: May I know whether the number of men and women out of employment is not less in Alleppey than in those places?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: I claim notice. We have no figures for the number of men, women and children who are rendered unemployed.

MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether relief measures are proposed to be given in Quilon also?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: Yes.

MR. VARKALA K. MADHAVAN: Sir, may I know whether the members representing Quilon and Chirayinkil will be consulted about the distribution of the relief measures to the labourers?

MR C. KUMARA DAS: That is a matter to be decided later on.

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